RAO BAHADUR DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Not much, I think. The officer in charge of the Public Gardens scraped together some funds from his own budget and was able to start the aquarium at a small cost. Later on, the maintenance charges too did not come to much. I have not got the exact figures, but the expenditure could never have come to a large amount.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : May I know the number and variety of the fishes preserved in the aquarium ?

RAO BAHADUR DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Sir, I am unable to furnish the information. I was told that some fresh water fish were kept in the aquarium and some of them died owing to insufficient aeration and other causes. At the time of closing down the aquarium I really cannot say how many survived.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : May I know whether the want of attractiveness of the aquarium was due to the scanty varieties of fish ?

RAO BAHADUR DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : It was really because the aquarium was not started on proper lines. Those honourable members who have been to Madras and seen the aquarium there as also the aquarium that was here may be able to know the difference between the two. Government must admit that the aquarium here was not started on proper lines and so the fish died ; and the number of visitors too fell off after the novelty was over.

MR. PACUDE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : What became of the fish ?

RAO BAHADUR DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : The dead fish were thrown away ; and I cannot say what happened to the live ones.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Was the failure of the experiment due to the fact that it was not properly started and conducted ?

RAO BAHADUR DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Sir, I have stated that an aquarium to be started on proper lines requires a larger amount. It was not so in this case. Here the experiment was tried on a very small scale and I must say it did not prove satisfactory. It was therefore thought better to close down the aquarium than to keep it in a bad condition.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT REGARDING THE ANSWERING OF INTERPELLATIONS.

PRESIDENT : I have a word to say before we proceed to the discussion of the budget. Mr. Velayudhan Pillai brought to my notice the fact that a very small number of questions are being tabled for each day so that the House could not utilise the first hour for that purpose. The Chair then gave a promise that the matter will be investigated and everything done to table a larger number of questions. That investigation has been made. And I can tell the honourable members that, from tomorrow onwards, a fairly large number of questions will be

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[President.]

tabled for answering. As regards this day, the Agenda had already been printed in the course of yesterday, and, therefore, further questions could not be added thereto. In passing, I may observe that although 10 questions alone were tabled for this day, they have occupied no less than 45 minutes.

Voting of Demands for grants (contd.)

DEMAND IV—EDUCATION (*contd.*)

Motion No. 123.—(*contd*)

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Sir, in opposing the motion, I wish to submit, for the information of the House, that the work of the Manager in the Director's Office has increased very much in recent years as a result of the reorganisation of the Inspectorate. Formerly, there were only two Inspecters. As a result of the recommendations of the Education Reforms Committee, the number of Inspectors has been increased to four. In addition to that, there is also one Inspectress. Such being the case, the volume of work in the Director's Office has increased to a very great extent. Even with the help of one Manager, it is not possible to look after this increased and ever-increasing work and to supervise the work of the Superintendents and others. So it is highly necessary that the post of Manager should be retained. If the motion had been for raising the status or salary of the Manager or for creating the post of a Deputy Director, which was in exitence some time ago, I would have most willingly supported the motion. But since the Manager's post is very necessary, I have to oppose the motion.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, at the last budget session, an identical motion was placed before this House, and after a fairly long discussion and after several members had spoken against the motions, it was withdrawn. I would invite the attention of the House to page 1 of the Administration Report for 1110, where it is stated that "the reorganisation of the Inspectorate, the introduction of various new forms and methods of administrative and financial control, and the adoption of some of the recommendations of the Education Reforms Committee, have resulted in a rapid increase in the volume of my work and of that of my office." It is a well recognised principle that every large office should have a Manager to control and supervise the work of the clerks, to see to the quick despatch of business, and to attend to various duties such as applications for leave and postings of clerks.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Has the work increased or decreased in the Director's office since last year ?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I can answer that in one sentence. The number of letters received in 1109 was 20,915; In 1110, it was 24,344; and in 1111 up to date it was 32,488. In other words, the work, judged by the volume of correspondence, has increased by more than 50 per cent.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): What is the difference in duties between the Personal Assistant and the Manager ?

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